

Promoting Safer Building Working Group

September Workshop – Activity Report

24th September 2020
Online



The Promoting Safer Building Working Group met on 24th September 2020 online. The workshop was attended by several NGOs, international organisations, researchers from universities and independent consultants. The aims of the workshop were:

1. Updates on Working Group activities and progress
2. Update on the GCRF Translations self-recovery project
3. Workshop on implementation of self-recovery projects

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1. Workshop Agenda

#	Session	Time
	Welcome	1000 - 1010
2	PSB Working Group Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IOM IEC Project (Joseph Ashmore, IOM) 2. GCRF Translations Project Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shelter and health next steps (Sue Webb, CENDEP) b. Testing the Self-Recovery Protocol in Malawi (Sonia Molina / Enrique Sevillano Gutiérrez, CRAterre) c. Shelter Response Profile - Research from AE&CC (Elsa Cauderay, AE&CC) d. Self-recovery Guidance development (Beth Simons, CARE) e. Roadmap for Research - an InterAction initiative (Bill Flinn, CARE) 3. Global Shelter Cluster Meeting Notification (Olivier Moles & Bill Flinn) 	1010 - 1110
3	Introductory discussion – Implementation of shelter self-recovery projects	1110 - 1140
	Break	1140 - 1155
4	Breakout Rooms Rotation 1	1155 - 1235
	Lunch	1235 - 1315
5	Breakout Rooms Rotation 2	1315 - 1355
6	Breakout Rooms Rotation 3	1400 - 1440
	Break	1440 - 1455
7	Feedback & discussion	1455 - 1550
8	Closing comments and next steps	1550 - 1600

2. List of Participants

- **Australian Red Cross:** Leeanne Marshall
- **Buro Happold:** Tom Newby
- **CARE International UK:** Bill Flinn, Step Haiselden, James Morgan, Amelia Rule, Beth Simons, Emma Weinstein-Sheffield
- **CENDEP:** Charles Parrack, Sue Webb
- **CRAterre-AE&CC:** Elsa Cauderay, Eugénie Crété, Florie Dejeant, Philippe Garnier, Olivier Moles, Enrique Sevillano Gutiérrez.
- **CRS:** Lorenza Esquinca
- **German Red Cross:** Sonia Molina Metzger
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Pia Jensen
- **Independent:** Rob Fielding, Fabian Prideaux
- **IOM:** Joseph Ashmore, Mohammed Abdelmoneim
- **Open University:** Lizzie Babister
- **University College London:** Lucila Carbonell
- **University of Sydney:** Aaron Opdyke
- **USAID/BHA:** Alex Miller

3. Working Group Updates

a. IOM IEC Project

Joseph Ashmore, IOM (Geneva) provided an update on the IEC Material Compendium project, which is running until December 2020. The project aims to collate, review and store IEC in an online library hosted on the Shelter Cluster website in a format that can easily be searched. IEC information from the final database can be easily retrieved and modified according to the context and adapted to the most appropriate form of communication.

30,000 initial files were collected which underwent two rounds of filtering to remove duplicates, irrelevant file types, photographs and less relevant images and any file not within the scope of the project. 700 files remain, of which 46 reviewers will assess 200 IECs. The final database is due to be hosted via a web interface, with dissemination planned through a publication, social media and events.

Of the files remaining, the majority relate to construction, with very few IECs on debris management or NFIs. Earthquakes, tropical weather and volcanic eruptions are the most prevalent hazard types detailed in the IEC, with very few on health hazards, and the majority were in English. The website will also host an image library to help production of new IEC materials and will include annotated images from key IECs that people can reuse. The website will launch soon.

b. Shelter and health next steps

The GCRF Translations project team hosted an online multi-sectoral Shelter and Health Learning Day in May, attended by over 100 humanitarian and development researchers and practitioners, from Health, WaSH and Shelter sectors. Twenty speakers addressed the multiple ways in which housing/emergency shelter affects physical and mental health. Panel Q&As and wider 'breakout room' discussions explored the implications of these connections for Shelter practice. The report of the workshop, [*Towards Healthier Homes in Humanitarian Settings*](#) was published in August. It includes summaries of the presentations, overall findings of the workshop and makes recommendations for next steps.

The project team is now tracking those recommendations and exploring how best to develop evidence on how Shelter interventions can improve health outcomes in emergencies and contribute to recovery. Health questions are being incorporated into other GCRF partner activities (for example CRAterre's localised context analyses, currently being tested in Malawi). Members of the team have also contributed to a chapter in the InterAction Roadmap for Research publication (currently in draft form), which suggests routes to enabling evidence-based programming that adopts a wide-angled 'Environmental Health lens'. Funding is being sought for future collaborative research with health sector experts.

c. Testing the Self-Recovery Protocol in Malawi

Enrique Sevillano (CRAterre-AE&CC) and Sonia Molina (Consultant) updated the group on their work testing the [*Self-Recovery Protocol*](#) in Malawi. The Protocol consists of seven steps after formation of a TWiG, to (1) establish the shelter context, (2) define IEC scope, (3) identify stakeholders, (4) determine communications pathways, (5) develop messaging, (6) define roll-out strategy and (7) MEL frameworks.

In Malawi, the TWiG has been established remotely with the support of the Malawi Red Cross and IFRC and two meetings held. The first step of the Protocol, Understanding the context is in progress through two activities: a Shelter Response Profile for the whole country and localised context analyses in precise

territories. The Malawi Shelter Response Profile is under development, working with the TWiG and the contextualised analysis of local building cultures with CRS/CADECOM. Regarding localised context analysis, methodology and tools have been adapted to the Malawi context, with the stakeholder and communication channel analysis included in the assessment, and the enumerators' guidelines developed. Pre-testing of the questionnaires and assessment methodology has been conducted with CRS/CADECOM, with results currently being compiled in a report and the tools adjusted accordingly.

Over the next few months, the assessment tools will be changed according to feedback, with the next steps of the Protocol pre-tested and then rolled out. The Protocol team is coordinating with the IEC Compendium Project and the Disability and Inclusion Working Group to ensure activities are complementary. Due to COVID, testing is being conducted remotely, which is also providing insight into how remote methods could be applied in other contexts.

d. Shelter Response Profile - Research from AE&CC

Elsa Cauderay, AE&CC, presented research on the impacts and limitations of Shelter Response Profiles (SRPs). The research aims to assess how the existing SRPs have been used, verify their relevance for practitioners, evaluate the production process and obtain feedback and recommendations for development of future SRPs. The methodology groups questions into five themes:

- Impact - Is the SRP a tool that assists with project and strategy choices?
- Efficiency - To what extent has the SRP reached its target audience?
- Relevance - To what extent is the SRP tool consistent with a shelter self-recovery approach?
- Durability - What are the outlooks of the SRP tool in the short to long-term?
- Connectedness - How does the SRP tool fit into crisis management strategies and preparedness?

A number of shelter practitioners and academics have taken part in both online surveys and in-depth interviews to support the research and the responses are currently being coded and analysed. If anyone wishes to take part in the research, please contact Elsa on elsa.cauderay@collectifcarpe.ch.

d. Shelter Self-Recovery Guidance

One major output of the GCRF Translations project is the production of Shelter Self-Recovery Guidance - a practical document to support self-recovery programming. The audience for the guidance is intended to be programme managers, shelter staff, shelter coordinators and people interested in self-recovery approaches. A proposed structure was presented:

- Introduction
- Part I (short): "Self-recovery explained" - guiding principles of self-recovery; what, why and when the approach is appropriate; benefits and risks and what is meant by the "enabling environment".
- Part II (the main part of the document): "Self-recovery programmes" - sections including general considerations for programming, preparedness, planning and programme design, resource mobilisation, implementation and MEAL.
- Part III (short): "Information gaps" - gaps to be considered in future iterations of the guidance or in future research.

Work from the previous workshop on context analysis (1st April 2020) was incorporated into Part II. For more information on the guidance outline and to comment or suggest contributions for illustrative case studies, please contact Beth Simons at CARE (simons@careinternational.org).

e. Roadmap for Research - an InterAction initiative

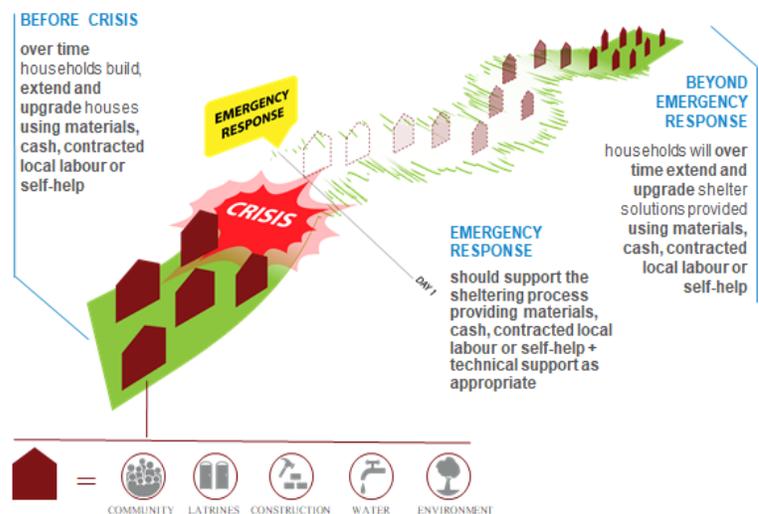
The Roadmap for Research initiative commissioned by InterAction with the support of USAID/BHA is a publication outlining future research areas and practitioner-academic partnerships for the shelter and settlements sector. It is recognised that the sector has several gaps in research and evidence to support programme design and evaluation. Members of the working group are involved in several chapters including:

- Redefining a good house - capturing the intangible aspects of shelter
- Towards an environmental health lens - considering health impacts of shelter
- Exploring linkages between shelter and home-based enterprises
- What do we mean by protection in shelter programming?
- Developing research in conflict and displacement
- Local building cultures and the role of local practices in DRR
- Integrating geoscience and local knowledge for shelter resilience

4. Implementation of Shelter Self-Recovery projects

a. Introduction & aims

Bill Flinn (CARE International UK) and Olivier Moles (CRAterre-AE&CC) outlined the background to the implementation workshop. Following on from the last working group guidance workshop on context analysis (needs assessment), this workshop focussed on implementation of self-recovery projects. Prior to a crisis, many households will have been extending and upgrading their homes using the resources they have available, according to their priorities (see image right). Therefore, after a crisis programmes should aim to support the process that is already happening and practitioners can build on the capacities of communities, using affordable and sustainable local resources to ensure that programmes are sustainable. As community priorities and plans change, programmes need to consider how best to monitor changes in context and adapt accordingly.



Shelter self-recovery programmes may bring together various aspects, including: programme development and management, community-led implementation processes and support options including direct and indirect assistance alongside the need for advocacy with donors and governments around support for self-recovery approaches. Participants in the workshop were encouraged to consider:

- What methods and tools are already available that could support shelter self-recovery programmes?
- What are the programming challenges that need further consideration or research?
- What does the implementation part of self-recovery guidance look like?

b. Summary of discussion tables

Community-led implementation

Community-led implementation is well aligned to the self-recovery agenda. The approach of community participation projects, when there is a commitment to involve the community in the decision-making process, is very similar to providing support to individual or household recovery pathways. However, there are risks in considering the community as a whole and defining a community level pathway to recovery, as communities can have unaccountable leadership which does not represent all viewpoints. Individuals within the community may need to take different recovery pathways. Urban settings can be more challenging than rural settings as people belong to various different networks and groups. There is a common perception that responses are too time-restricted to include community participation in programming, this can be mitigated by working with local partners. Agencies can build on existing [conflict sensitivity](#) and capacity mapping tools, and [community-participation](#) tools like [PASSA](#). Agencies should consider adapting good practice from the development sector for use in humanitarian settings.

Programme design and management

Design and management of shelter self-recovery programmes requires additional considerations and resources that are different to other shelter programme approaches such as Owner Driven Reconstruction (ODR). For example, more resources for ongoing monitoring to understand changing capacities, priorities and plans. Identifying potential community-led monitoring processes early in programme design would support monitoring processes. Alongside enhanced monitoring comes a requirement for flexible programming, which may require changes to donor and organisational approaches. Being braver to advocate with donors for changes would help programmes better support community priorities and the enabling environment for self-recovery. Multi-disciplinary teams were also identified as being important for self-recovery approaches, including community development teams and hiring people with social science backgrounds. This may require a change in hiring mentality but recognises that self-recovery approaches are holistic and require different skill sets at different times.

Direct and indirect support

There is a need to understand more about local capacities in order to ensure a community-led and inclusive process in SR programmes; vulnerability is nuanced and a self-recovery approach might even increase vulnerability for some groups or individuals. When considering the need for different types and timings of support, we need to be mindful of this. Self-recovery programmes need adaptability to be able to support emerging hard-to-reach/vulnerable groups. It is in fact hard to make a clear-cut distinction between direct (e.g. cash and materials) and indirect (e.g. legal expertise for HLP issues) support for self-recovery programmes. There is a need for different types of support to flex over time, allowing progressive 'ownership' of the recovery process. There was discussion of whether we should re-conceptualise direct/indirect support as 'creating a progressive enabling environment for self-recovery'? The shelter practitioner role is to be a facilitator. We need to identify and support local structures, support networks and local decision-making mechanisms. Another important element of support is communication and training provision. We know that recovery has started before humanitarian actors get there, so we need to consider how training and communication support can 'catch up'. How can we plan timely training that tackles what is 'good enough' and 'safe enough'? Who decides?

Self-recovery advocacy

There is a need to achieve a common understanding between practitioners, academics and donors about the value of the self-recovery approach. Self-recovery is often not "visible" and can be hard for donors or governments to visualise and there are challenges in self-recovery not being viewed as a "good quality" option, and with organisations wishing to have more control over product-based approaches. The

guidance should highlight positives of self-recovery approaches through case studies including impact on policy (e.g. in Haiti, with the legal regularisation of local building practices). As self-recovery works alongside existing community practices, using local resources and knowledge and making the best use of local capacities, it is a sustainable and affordable approach for many communities, something that should be outlined in the guidance. Also in the guidance, it should be highlighted how the process of self-recovery goes beyond the typical humanitarian time-line, meaning self-recovery approaches can successfully bridge the humanitarian-development nexus; this is a positive benefit of self-recovery, which can be used to advocate for adoption of self-recovery approaches by governments and organisations.

c. Themes emerging

Across the different groups, some key themes emerged that should be considered for self-recovery programmes, including:

Cash: Cash was considered a key component of self-recovery projects by many participants, particularly multipurpose cash which is an approach that facilitates agency in recovery according to community plans and priorities. To ensure successful cash programmes, building resilience in markets during preparedness and understanding access to finance for communities, particularly marginalised groups, are important.

Development: The timescale of recovery extends long beyond typical emergency programming timeframes. There is a need to link with development actors and the relevant government departments early, and ensure that programmes take a long-term view, even if the timescale of funding does not permit this, as self-recovery will go beyond typical humanitarian timelines. This ensures better connectivity of humanitarian and development activities, and highlights the value of supporting self-recovery as an approach.

Existing social structures: With the additional focus on community-led processes, care needs to be taken to not undermine existing social structures that may contribute to recovery, whilst also not reinforcing social exclusion. Strong context analyses, and ongoing monitoring should help identify challenges, as well as working with community development actors.

Facilitating not providing: Self-recovery approaches acknowledge the humanitarian role as being a facilitator, supporting an existing process, and not one that is solely a provider of materials. Ensuring this mentality across teams and organisations is essential to a successful shelter self-recovery programme. This is also a key aspect to be communicated in any training on self-recovery approaches.

Urban vs. rural: Self-recovery approaches currently seem more focused on rural programmes. However, self-recovery in urban settings also occurs, for example in Port-au-Prince after the earthquake in 2010, the majority of people reconstructed themselves. Urban settings present increased challenges and recovery takes longer, but the guidance should attempt to demonstrate how self-recovery can be supported in urban settings, and not just provide case studies from rural locations.

Monitoring: As community plans and priorities change over time, more resources for monitoring processes may be required to adapt programmes as required. These processes can be community-led, but there is also a need for additional resources to be considered when writing project proposals. There is a recognition that monitoring may identify the need for projects to extend beyond funding limits, which can be mitigated by speaking with development partners and the relevant authorities early in programmes.

Multi-disciplinary teams: Considering the wider context in which recovery takes place, there is a need to have communities, technical shelter staff and other disciplines such as social science involved in programmes. Strong linkages with cash and markets practitioners, for example, may also identify and support markets early, ensuring there is an enabling environment for shelter recovery. In considering “building back healthier”, there is a requirement to work more closely with health actors, and with communities to identify whether health and housing concerns are a priority.

5. The way forward

a. Outputs - thoughts for the implementation section of the guidance

The workshop participants provided several ideas for inclusion in the self-recovery guidance (see also the [previous workshop](#) recommendations, which have been included):

- **Decision trees** can be useful tools in complex environments.
- **Case studies**, including:
 - o Where programmes haven’t worked as intended.
 - o Where communities have led responses to a crisis, e.g. Beirut, 2020.
- Links to **existing tools** with examples of how they could be used in self-recovery programmes.
- **Diagrams** are important - these can often be used in training.
- Design **training** alongside the self-recovery guidance (Note: this was also a recommendation of the last workshop).
- Reiterate that self-recovery is not a single approach, e.g. multipurpose cash, but will be a programme tailored to the context that creates the enabling environment for recovery.
- Guidance needs to be **concise** and **to the point** otherwise it won’t get used. Translate into key languages? (e.g. French, Spanish, Arabic, Bahasa).

Additionally, for the self-recovery “donor guidance”, which is designed to be a summary of self-recovery approaches, participants considered that the following should be highlighted:

- Need to flexible approaches tailored to community priorities and plans.
- Linking humanitarian programming with development (nexus).
- The self-recovery approach and the focus on localisation and cash in line with the Grand Bargain.

b. Next steps

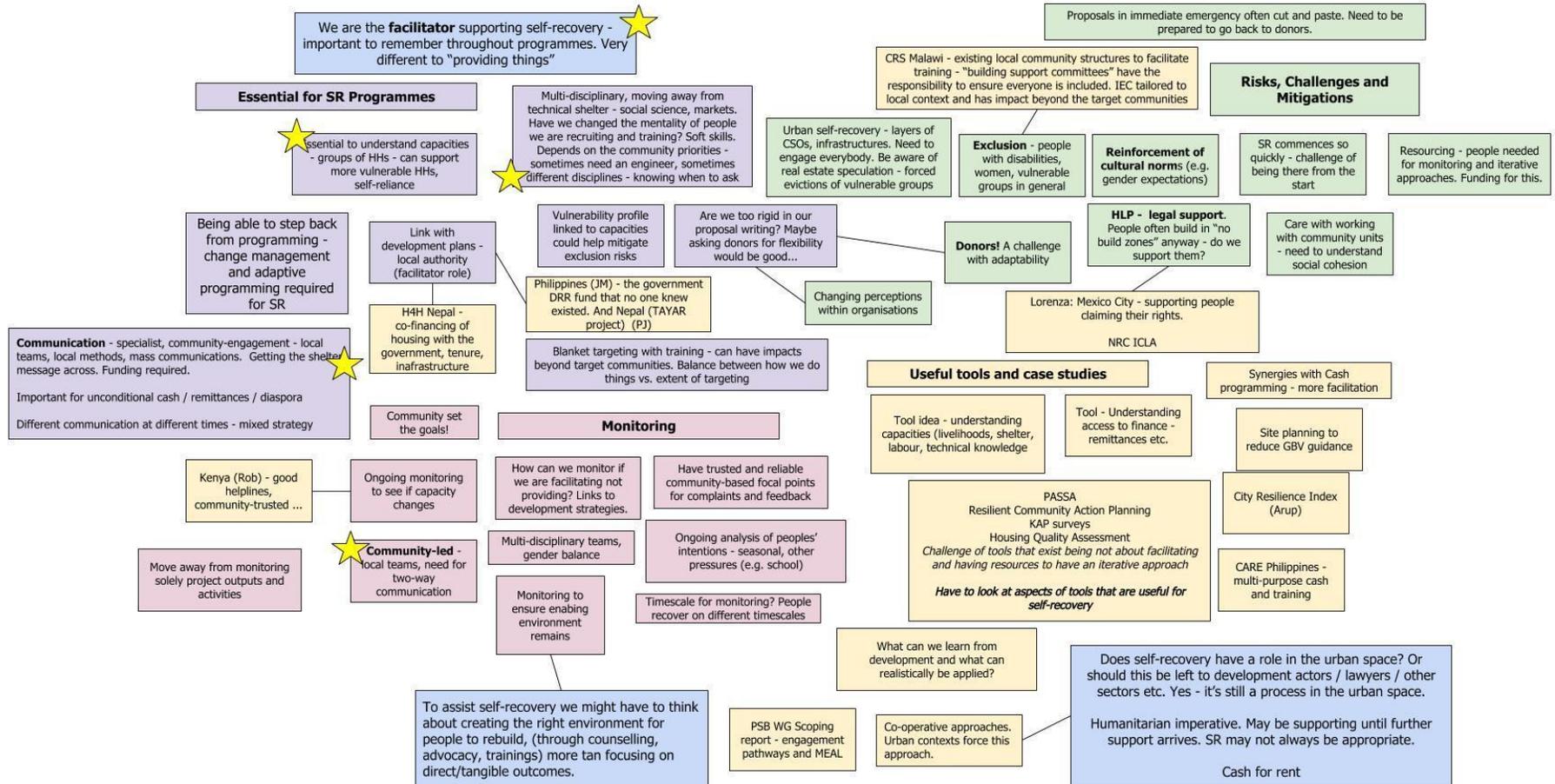
- Next meeting – MEAL for self-recovery programmes
 - o **Action: CARE / CRAterre team to work on arranging the future meetings.**
- If you have a case study that you would like to contribute to the self-recovery guidance, or any ideas of tools that would be useful, please contribute.
 - o **Action: Please contact Beth (simons@careinternational.org) and Emma (Weinstein-sheffield@careinternational.org) at CARE with input.**
- There are upcoming meetings as part of the Global Shelter Cluster month. The Promoting Safer Building Working Group will update on the 7th October, 1600 (Geneva time) and the IOM IEC Shelter Compendium project on 29th October, 1000 (Geneva time).
 - o **Action: Sign up on the Global Shelter Cluster website.**

Appendices

Please see the following pages for the virtual flipcharts developed during the workshop.

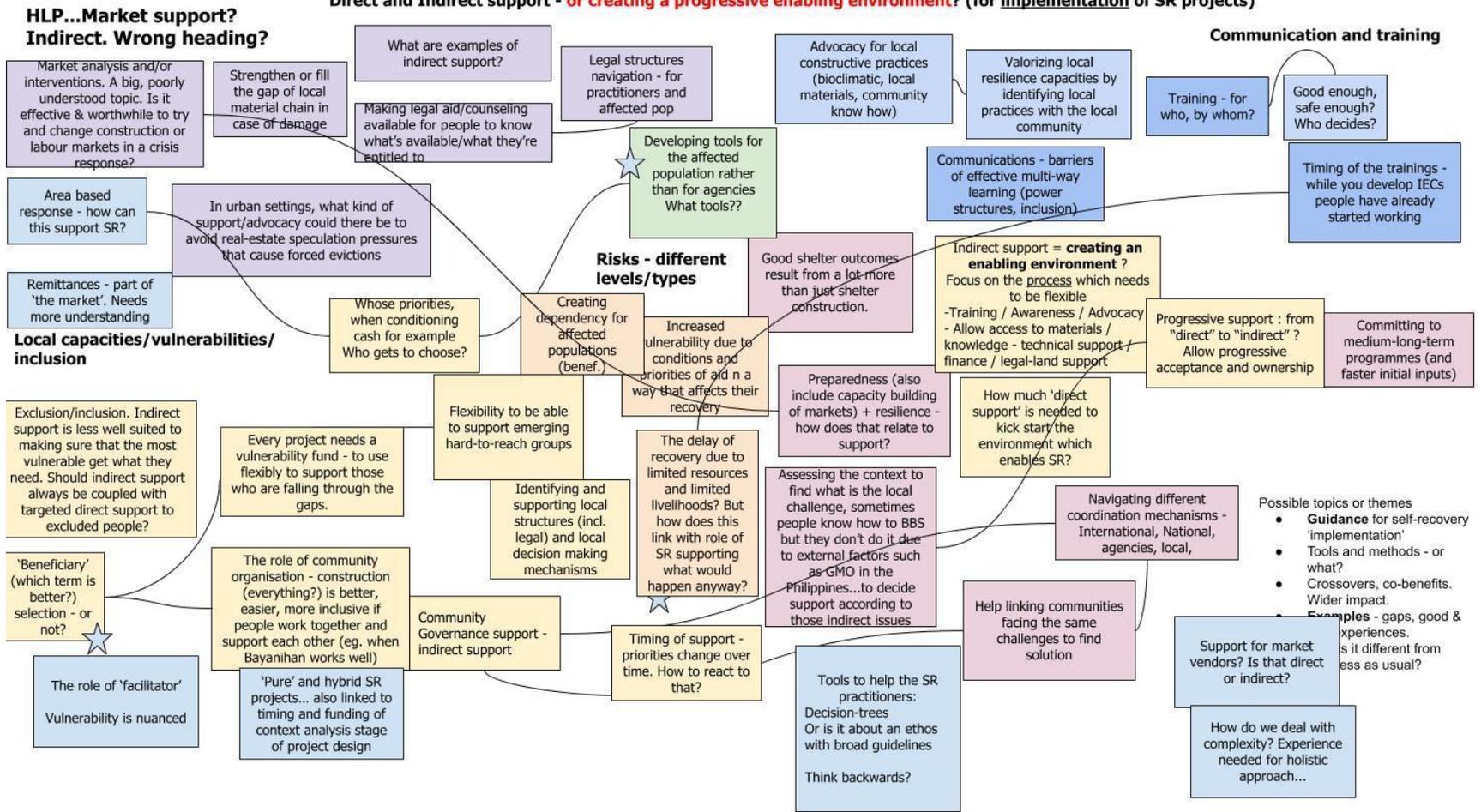
Programme development and monitoring table flipchart

Programme Development and Monitoring Table



Direct and indirect support table flipchart

Direct and Indirect support - or creating a progressive enabling environment? (for implementation of SR projects)



Self-recovery advocacy table flipchart

